

My name is Becky Dornoff and I have been an adoption advocate with Adopt America Network for over 17 years. I have helped find homes for almost 500 children across the country. My husband and I have also adopted a number of children with special needs. For 11 years I have attempted to help families who have adopted children who are SSI eligible and should be IV-E eligible to receive adoption subsidy, including two of our own children. I have spoken to members of ICAMA and the regional Federal office and numerous staff in the subsidy office here in Michigan. Although I have been able to help families in other states, I have been unable to help families in Michigan. There are families in Michigan with severely impaired children, such as Dylan Rudy, receiving little or no assistance. Because the subsidy dept claims the children have not met the state criteria of being in foster care for 4 months or some other added criteria. According to Federal law children who are SSI eligible are automatically eligible for IV-E subsidy assistance. These children are a joy to care for but it's very difficult to provide for all the extras they need such as wheelchair accessible vans, remodeling in the home and specialized toys just to name a few. Because of these financial worries, and the state's apparent lack of following the law, a number of families are planning a class action lawsuit to force compliance for children past, present and future who are legally entitled IV-E assistance. Please do what you can to help these children and families receive what they need to help every child have the most beneficial and supportive home environment possible.

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN

P.O. BOX 30026, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

RICHARD S. BEARUP, Ombudsman

June 6, 1995

Ms. Becky Dornoff
AASK Midwest, Inc.
4784 Bartlett
Williamsburg, MI 49690

Dear Ms. Dornoff:

My office has made inquiries on Ben's behalf to determine if he would be eligible for IV E funding. From the information that you have provided and the information that the department has, Ben is not eligible for the IV E funding. The fact that Ben was never in foster care in Michigan makes him exempt from receiving any funding of this nature.

I am enclosing a copy of the booklet regarding the Adoption Subsidy program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (517) 373-3077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bearup", written over the typed name.

Richard S. Bearup
Children's Ombudsman

RSB/lv
Enclosure

**ADOPTION SUBSIDY
CERTIFICATION REQUEST/DISPOSITION
FOR A CHILD NOT YET IN ADOPTION**
Michigan Department of Social Services

AUTHORITY: PA 280 of 1939. COMPLETION: Is Mandatory.
PENALTY: Completion is part of contract agreement.

The Department of Social Services will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act you are invited to make your needs known to a DSS Office in your county.

A. Name Adoption Cradle		Child's Name Benjamin Jennings	Birth Date 7/17/89
Agency Address (No. & Street) 554 Capital Ave SW		Phone 616 963 0794	Is This Child a Ward From Another State or Country? .. <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES (Explain Below),
City Battle Creek	MI	Zip Code 49015-26300	If Yes, Name of Other State or Country Cuyahoga County Ohio
CHILD CURRENTLY APPROVED FOR: <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT SUBSIDY <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL SUBSIDY			

I. SUPPORT SUBSIDY ELIGIBILITY

Date of Initial Placement in Foster Care _____

Check the one appropriate box under either 1 or 2 below:

1. No qualified family willing to adopt without subsidy.
☐ State wards or ADC-FC funded permanent court wards. (Attach DSS-1348 Federation Coordinator Notice, or indicate date child was listed on MARE _____.)
☐ Other children, private agency wards, court wards, etc. (Indicate date child was listed on MARE _____.)

2. Only placement in the best interest of child and the family is requesting a support subsidy. (Attach a DSS-4081, Adoptive Parent's Request for Support Subsidy.)
☐ Foster care placement for one year or more.
FAMILY NAME: _____

☐ Relative placement.
RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD: _____
FAMILY NAME: _____

☐ Placement with previous adopted sibling.
☒ Other (Attach explanatory memo.)

II. MEDICAL SUBSIDY ELIGIBILITY

A medical subsidy is being requested for the following physical, mental, or emotional condition(s). (Attach appropriate medical and / or professional reports.)

ADOPTION SERVICES DIV. 95 JUL 24 PM 3:51

ADOPTION SERVICES DIV. 95 JUL 14 PM 12:37

Worker Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 6-12-95	Worker Name (Please Print) Anne J. Hacker
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FOR DSS CENTRAL OFFICE USE ONLY

I. SUPPORT SUBSIDY CERTIFICATION Support Subsidy Is: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DENIED (Give reason for denial) From the information provided, the child was not in Mich. foster care for a minimum of 4 months, placed by and under the supervision of a child placing agency as required by Mich. statute. (Note attached House Bill No. 4036, which is now Mich. law.) Signature of Adoption Subsidy Specialist <i>[Signature]</i> Date 8-3-95	II. MEDICAL SUBSIDY CERTIFICATION Medical Subsidy Is: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED as written. <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED with the following changes. _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED (Give reason for denial). _____ _____ Signature of Adoption Subsidy Specialist _____ Date _____
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NOTE:

If the decision regarding certification is unsatisfactory, a hearing may be requested in writing within 90 days through the Bureau of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 30041, Lansing, MI 48909.